

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 982

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY AOUNDE

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, LE

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SUBJECT: LEBANESE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

1. ACCORDING TO FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR"
JULY 7, MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT ADEL OSSEIRAN LISTS
THE FOLLOWING AS NUMBERS OF LEBANESE WHO HAVE LEFT COUNTRY
OVER PAST MONTHS AS RESULT OF CRISIS. THE COUNTRY LISTED IS
REFUGEE'S DESTINATION IN EACH CASE.

SYRIA 500,000

EGYPT 25,000

GULF STATES 25,000

CYPRUS 15,000

FRANCE AND BRITAIN 20,000

OSSEIRAN ALSO SAID THAT AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS HAVE GONE TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. WHILE WE HAVE LITTLE BASIS ON WHICH TO CHECK ABOVE FIGURES,
WE BELIEVE THEY ARE INACCURATE IN TWO RESPECTS: FIRST, THE OMIT
COUNTRIES LIKE JORDAN AND GREECE WHERE WE BELIEVE SIGNIFICANT
NUMBERS OF LEBANESE REFUGEES HAVE ENDED UP. A NUMBER OF
LEBANESE HAVE ALSO MOVED TO WEST AFRICA TO JOIN RELATIVES THERE,
AS I CAN TESTIFY TO FROM MY RECENT VISIT TO LIBREVILLE, GABON,
SECONDLY, THE FIGURES APPEAR EXAGGERATED IN SOME INSTANCES. AT HEIGHT
OF PANIC EXODUS OF CHRISTIANS TO CYPRUS LAST APRIL, FOR EXAMPLE,
WE HAD ESTIMATE OF LEBANESE REFUGEES IN CYPRUS OF BETWEEN 2,000
AND 2,500. THIS STILL SEEMS CLOSER TO REAL NUMBER THAN
OSSEIRAN'S 15,000.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF ADDRESSEES
NUMBERS OF LEBANESE WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO THEIR COUNTRIES.
SEELYE

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